RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
FEB 1 1 2009

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-24 (canceled).

25 (currently amended). A method of preparing a zinc anode composition ~~including~~ comprising the steps of:

~~1.~~ (i) ~~Preparing a~~ preparing a suspension of a first precipitate of zinc hydroxide;

~~2.~~ (ii) ~~Mixing~~ mixing a solution of an alkali salt of either a C_6-C_{30} fatty acid or a C_6-C_{30} alkyl sulfonic acid with ~~a~~ the suspension of ~~the~~ a first precipitate of zinc hydroxide to provide a mix; and then

~~3.~~ (iii) ~~Adding~~ adding a solution of a salt of an acid to the mix to provide the composition as a second precipitate;

wherein the anode composition is a mixture of zinc hydroxide and an insoluble salt of ~~either~~ a C_6-C_{30} fatty acid ~~or a C_6-C_{30} alkyl sulfonic acid~~ that has an electrochemically active form of zinc.

26 (Original). A method as claimed in Claim 25 wherein the first precipitate includes graphite.

27 (cancelled).

28 (currently amended). A method as claimed in Claim 25 wherein the alkali salt of ~~either a~~ the C_6-C_{30} fatty acid ~~or a C_6-C_{30} alkyl sulfonic acid~~ is an alkali salt of a naturally occurring C_{12}-C_{22} fatty acid.

29 (currently amended). A method as claimed in Claim 25 wherein the alkali salt of ~~either a~~ the C_6-C_{30} fatty acid ~~or a C_6-C_{30} alkyl sulfonic acid~~ is an alkali metal salt of stearate.

30 (currently amended). A method as claimed in Claim 25 wherein the alkali salt of ~~either a~~ the C_6-C_{30} fatty acid ~~or a C_6-C_{30} alkyl sulfonic acid~~ is potassium stearate.

31 (original). A method as claimed in Claim 30 wherein the salt of a mineral acid is zinc sulphate.

32 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 30 wherein the composition is a mixture of zinc stearate and either zinc hydroxide or a combination of zinc oxide and zinc hydroxide.

33 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 32 wherein the molar ratio of zinc stearate to either zinc hydroxide or a combination of zinc oxide and zinc hydroxide is in the range 0.0001:1 to 0.5:1.

34 (currently amended). A method as claimed in Claim ~~32~~ 33 wherein the

range is 0.05:1 to 0.4:1.

35 (currently amended). A method as claimed in Claim ~~32~~ 34 wherein the range is 0.075:1 to 0.25:1.

36 (currently amended). A method as claimed in Claim ~~32~~ 30 wherein the salt of a mineral acid is calcium nitrate.

37 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 36 wherein the composition is a mixture of calcium stearate and either zinc hydroxide or a combination of zinc oxide and zinc hydroxide.

38 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 37 wherein the molar ratio of calcium stearate to either zinc hydroxide or a combination of zinc oxide and zinc hydroxide is in the range 0.0001:1 to 0.2:1.

39 (currently amended). A method as claimed in Claim ~~37~~ 38 wherein the range is 0.01:1 to 0.1:1.

40 (currently amended). A method as claimed in Claim ~~37~~ 39 wherein the range is 0.03:1 to 0.15:1.

41-87 (canceled).